

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1-12 as follows:

1. (Amended) A medical instrument comprising a push/pull rod displaceable by a hand manipulator arranged on a proximal end of said push/pull rod for activating remote tool parts at a distal end of said push/pull rod, said medical instrument further comprising a force-limiting device envisaged for limiting the transmission of force onto said remote tool parts from said hand manipulator via said push/pull rod, wherein said push/pull rod itself is designed to form said force-limiting device having spring-like elasticity along the line of displacement.

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2. (Amended) A medical instrument according to claim 1, wherein said push/pull rod is designed to have at least sectional undulatory curves to provide said spring-like elasticity.

3. (Amended) A medical instrument according to claim 2, wherein said individual sections with the undulatory curves are designed on planes offset from one another.

4. (Amended) A medical instrument according to claim 3, wherein said individual sections with the undulatory curves are each designed on planes offset at 90° from one another.

5. (Amended) A medical instrument according to claim 2, wherein said individual semi-curves of said sections with the undulatory curves are designed to be offset at 90° or 135° from one another.

6. (Amended) A medical instrument according to claim 2, wherein the spring-like elasticity of said push/pull rod can be adjusted through its shape and/or the number of the undulatory curves.

7. (Amended) A medical instrument according to claim 1, wherein said push/pull rod is designed with at least turned spring coil sections to provide the spring-like elasticity.

8. (Amended) A medical instrument according to claim 7, wherein the spring-like elasticity of said push/pull rod can be adjusted through the gradient of said turned spring coil sections.

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9. (Amended) A medical instrument according to claim 7, wherein said turned spring coil sections have a large gradient.

10. (Amended) A medical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the spring-like elasticity of said push/pull rod can be adjusted via the material of said push/pull rod.

11. (Amended) A medical instrument according to claim 1, wherein said push/pull rod is made from one uniform piece of material.

12. (Amended) A medical instrument according to claim 1, wherein said push/pull rod has a virtually constant cross section.